



Washington State Department of Agriculture *Media Advisory*

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Media Advisory:

Contractor begins tree cutting for citrus longhorned beetle eradication

OLYMPIA – Northwest Arbor-Culture, Inc. of Newberg, OR, today began its \$235,000 contract to remove and chip up to 1,000 hardwood trees within a 1/8-mile radius of a Tukwila nursery where eradication efforts of the citrus longhorned beetle are underway. The beetle attacks healthy host trees by laying larvae and killing the tree from the inside out. The tree cutting is planned to be completed by the end of July.

Among recent events:

- The removal and chipping of about 1,000 significant trees in Tukwila. On June 27, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) employees began removing and chipping host species landscape trees from the nursery property that was the escape site and from adjacent properties also belonging to the nursery. Tree removal from the four nursery properties at the intersection of Macadam Road S. and S. 144th St. was completed last week.
- This morning, tree removal began in the greenway area and on I-5 right-of-way. The contractor anticipates beginning work on removing yard and garden trees later this afternoon or tomorrow. Northwest Arbor-Culture is operating three crews and WSDA is operating one crew today.
- Prior to tree removal, WSDA staff are visiting the properties and marking which trees and plants will be removed. Residents are being given a letter detailing what will be removed. A voucher, redeemable for non-host trees, shrubs and other vegetation, and information on its use will be sent to the property owner separately in the coming weeks. A fact sheet on the tree replacement voucher program is being distributed to residents and will be posted on the WSDA Web site later today.
- Due to the narrow window of opportunity available to destroy citrus longhorned larvae in Tukwila, tree-removal crews will be working seven days a week beginning at 7:00 a.m. and quitting when daylight conditions do not allow for safe working conditions.

Background information is available at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/CitrusLHBeetle.htm>

Note to Media: As of today, Filiz Satir replaces Tonia Buell as the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Citrus Longhorned Beetle project. A former newspaper reporter, Satir has worked as an information specialist with the state Department of Health and most recently served as communications director for the state Redistricting Commission. She can be reached at the same office phone number and cell phone as you may have used to reach Buell (listed above).

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